

# KICHAKA EXPEDITIONS

## *Weather & Seasons*



### **Weather and climate in Ruaha National Park**

Ruaha in general has very pleasant climate. Situated 8 degrees South of the Equator with an altitude between 800-1000 Meters above sea level it is the stereotype of safari climate. We endure only one rainy season unlike the rest of East Africa which begins in November, gets particularly heavy in January and February and begins to slow down in March before finally relinquishing its hold in April. The rest of the year is dry with very little or no chance of rain. Winter temperatures of June/July can drop to 10 degrees centigrade on a night with pleasant highs of low 30's. The Summer months get hot before the rain breaks with highs of high 30's with high humidity. We have 3 different season in Ruaha: **DRY, WET, & GREEN SEASON.** Please read more about them below.



### **DRY SEASON: JUNE - NOVEMBER**

Without doubt the prime months for game viewing in Ruaha. Water becomes scarce as the rivers & pans begin to dry up forcing the game closer to the more permanent water sources offering great viewing opportunities. Game sightings improve as the grass dies out and all the leaves fall of the trees as they commence their 'hibernation', enabling us to see much deeper into the vegetation. Brown, yellow and barren defines the landscape, a different beauty to that of the rains. colder nights can occur, especially in a tent, which have their effects thwarted by roaring fires in the camp and hot water bottles in the beds. The bigger game is bountiful at this time of year. As the season progresses Buffalo and Elephant start to build in numbers which make for great adrenaline filled walking and the reduction in vegetation assists in getting more glimpses of the sleek cats, always in the vicinity of the bigger herds.

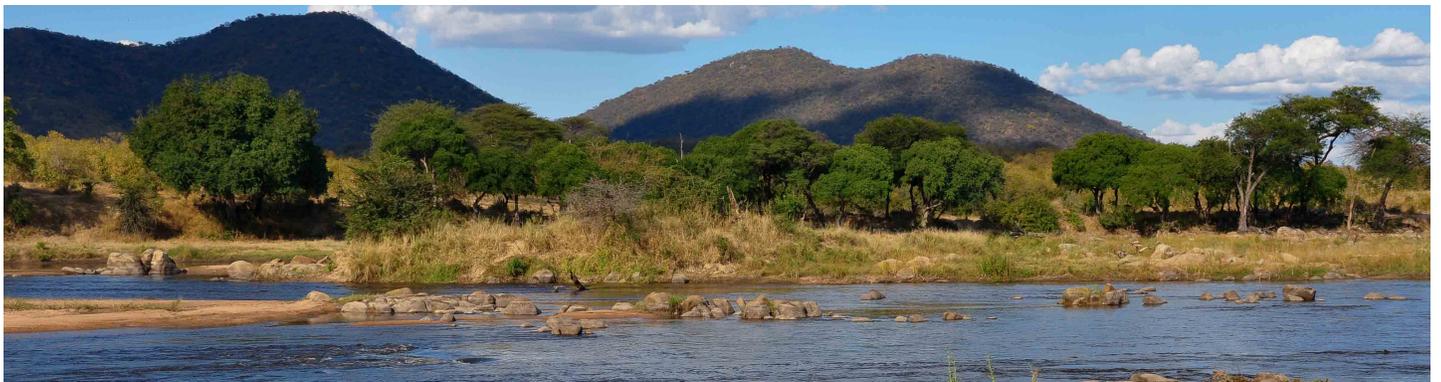
► **Climate** - In June, July and August, temperatures can drop to about 10°C, warm clothing is recommended during the night. The days warm up to a very pleasant 30°C with low humidity. The humidity and heat build in the latter months and daytime temperatures can reach high 30's. **There is no chance of rain, not even clouds at this time of year.**



## WET SEASON: DECEMBER - MARCH

When it rains it pours!! Ruaha in the rains can receive considerable amounts of water which turns the land into pure paradise. The heat really kicks in over November and the humidity increases, clouds pepper the previously stark blue sky and every day build up in the afternoons getting progressively more intimidating as the days go on. One day usually towards late November the clouds will release their heavy burden and unleash the first rain to drench the ground and bring a sigh of relief to all around. Grass emerges from ground so cracked and bare that you wonder if anything could ever recover from this. But recover it does into every shade of Green imaginable over an incredibly short time. Rivers are flowing, flowers emerging and there is a sense of peace with the animals in the Park. A myriad of numerous little creatures, unseen over the dry periods come to life in this period, as well as a huge influx of birds arriving from pastures far far away, some as far as Russia.

► **Climate** - Temperatures climb into the mid to high 30's in the day and can become quite hot, but always cool down wonderfully by bedtime ensuring a good nights sleep. **Expect chances of big rainstorms. The storms are often brief with sunshine emerging soon after allowing us to continue our day to day activities.**



## GREEN SEASON: APRIL - MAY

One of the most rewarding times to be in Ruaha and for those who live here, very often the favorite time of year! The big rains are over however the land is still lush and green and many of the seasonal rivers still flow, there is a chance of some scattered showers. The Park roads have dried up and are passable over most their range allowing us to push further into the Park. The grass slowly begins to yellow and many of the migrant birds begin to leave and make their way back to the Northern hemisphere. Water is still abundant so the game is scattered over much of the park. It is possible to see the beauty of the land in a state of paradise without the actual heavy rain itself. Due to the fact there is widespread water, walking is extremely variable at this time of year as it offers us opportunity to wander away from the main Ruaha River itself where nearly all of the dry season is spent. New landscapes and environments open up allowing you to totally loose yourself in untouched country for days on end. Many of the wet season creatures are still around, taking advantage of the plenty before they burrow themselves away for the majority of the dry season not to be seen till the rains begin again.

► **Climate** - Temperatures are a very pleasant 15°C at night with a high of 32°C in the day. **There is chance of some scattered showers, however most of the big rainstorms have already finished.**